



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 August 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports power companies are working to develop technology to reduce emissions of mercury and other harmful pollutants, as pressure mounts from government regulators and environmental activists. (See item [4](#))
- According to government databases and aviation experts, the pilots of Comair Flight 5191, who tried to take off from the wrong runway, were repeating a common error; the related risk of planes that stray into the paths of other planes on runways is considered one of the top aviation risks in the country. (See item [15](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 28, Reuters* — **Chad president orders Chevron, Petronas to leave.** Chad ordered U.S. energy giant Chevron and Malaysia's Petronas on Saturday, August 26, to leave the country within 24 hours for failing to honor tax obligations, a move apparently aimed at increasing control over its oil output. "From tomorrow, the representatives of Chevron and Petronas must leave Chad and close their offices," President Idriss Deby told a government meeting. The surprise move followed Chad's decision to create a new national oil company which it said should become a partner in the country's existing oil-producing consortium, led by U.S. major

Exxon Mobil and including Chevron and Petronas. Landlocked Chad, which began pumping crude in 2003, produces around 160,000–170,000 bpd but most of its people remain poor. Industry experts said Deby's government was clearly anxious to carve out a more advantageous position as Chad's oil production, which began in 2003, continued to expand.  
Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060826/energy\\_chad\\_companies.html?.v=3](http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060826/energy_chad_companies.html?.v=3)

2. *August 28, Associated Press* — **Oil prices drop more than \$2 a barrel.** Oil prices pulled back by more than \$2 a barrel Monday, August 28, as concerns eased about Tropical Storm Ernesto's threat to Gulf of Mexico energy production. Gasoline and natural gas futures also fell sharply, and analysts said the downward trend was supported by rising supplies and indications of a weakening economy. While fears that U.S. energy production would be hurt by Ernesto subsided, world energy markets remained on edge over Iran's standoff with the West over its nuclear program. Traders are concerned about the possibility that Iran, the world's fourth-biggest oil producer, may block oil exports if it suffers sanctions by the United Nations over its nuclear program. The UN set an August 31 deadline for Iran to halt its nuclear program, but Tehran has said that it wants to negotiate further. Still, experts believe the likelihood is quite small that Iran would cut off its oil exports — or that the West would take any actions that would force Tehran to retaliate in such a way.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0806/356285.html>

3. *August 28, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Nigeria's Daukoru calls on companies to maintain Niger Delta work.** Nigerian Oil Minister Edmund Daukoru on Monday, August 28, called on multinational oil companies to maintain operations in the Niger Delta despite the on going violence and crude production disruptions there. "I want to reassure them and any others who are thinking of pulling out that what we are going through is very temporary," Daukoru told reporters in Abuja. An upsurge in attacks on oil companies and kidnappings of foreign workers recently had seen some companies start pulling out of the Niger Delta region. Tension has been high in the Niger Delta after Nigerian troops, acting on the directive of President Olusegun Obasanjo, began hunting down militants kidnapping oil workers. Oil firms, including Royal Dutch/Shell and Chevron, have suffered huge production losses due to the violence unleashed since last February by militia groups.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7673332.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil&src=energybulletin>

4. *August 26, Associated Press* — **Power plants seek solutions to mercury.** Power companies are rushing to develop technology — as pressure mounts from government regulators and environmental activists — to reduce emissions of mercury and other harmful pollutants. Presque Isle — on Michigan's Lake Superior shore — was chosen in 2003 to host the first demonstration of Toxecon under real-world operating conditions. It somewhat resembles a honeycomb: row upon row of sturdy fabric bags, each 26 feet long and stretched over a steel frame that preserves its conical shape. And, for high-tech gadgetry, it's short on bells and whistles. Yet this mechanism inside a cavernous building at the Presque Isle Power Plant may help achieve one of the nation's top environmental goals: slashing mercury emissions from incineration of coal to generate electricity. Designed by industry researchers, it prevents gaseous mercury from escaping into the atmosphere by mixing it with carbon, creating ash that is collected in the fabric bags and trucked to landfills. The Toxecon experiment comes amid debate over whether power companies have the ability — and the money — to hit the 90

percent mercury reduction target set by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm in April. A number of other states, including Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota, are adopting the same requirement.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/science/4143545.html>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

5. *August 28, Associated Press* — **Acetylene tank explosions prompt evacuations.** A series of explosions and a fire destroyed about a third of the Wells Pet Food Company plant in Monmouth Sunday afternoon, August 27, and forced the brief evacuation of neighborhood residents in Monmouth, IL. The explosions were caused by acetylene tanks in a maintenance area of the plant.  
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=4502757>
6. *August 28, Billings Gazette (MT)* — **Gas line rupture forces evacuation in Montana.** About 20 people were evacuated Sunday morning, August 27, after a gas line was punctured in Park City, MT. A worker digging a trench with a hand tool poked a hole in the line causing natural gas to leak around on South Clark Street.  
Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/08/28/news/state/50-gas.txt>
7. *August 26, Associated Press* — **Residents allowed home after Delaware chemical spill.** Residents in Dover, DE, living near a railroad tanker car that released a hazardous chemical, sickening 23 people, have been allowed to return home. An evacuation notice for 44 homes had been issued Saturday morning, August 26, because the temperature inside rail car, which was leaking styrene, was increasing and its pressure relief valve apparently was not working. By Saturday night, residents were allowed to return.  
Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/15370548.htm>
8. *August 26, Sheboygan-Press (WI)* — **Chemical fire at Wisconsin plant prompts brief highway closure.** Fire departments responded to a chemical fire at the Aldrich Chemical plant early Friday evening, August 25, in the Town of Wilson, WI. There were no injuries reported and area residents were not evacuated, although Highway V was closed to traffic for about 30 minutes.  
Source: <http://www.sheboygan-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060826/SHE0101/608260529/1062/SHEnews>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *August 25, Government Computer News* — **DISA wants additional collaboration tools.** In July, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) awarded a \$17 million contract to a vendor to provide enterprisewide "pay for use" collaboration services under its Net-Centric Enterprise Services (NCES) program. In addition to this, DISA plans to acquire a second commercially

managed collaboration service to promote competition between the service providers. Collaboration software should include instant messaging, text chat, Web conferencing and whiteboarding. Collaboration is one of nine core services that make up the NCES initiative. The others are applications, discovery, enterprise service management, mediation, messaging, security, storage and user assistance.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1\\_no1/41810-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/41810-1.html)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *August 28, IDG News Service* — **McAfee warns of "SMiShing" attacks.** Cell phone users should watch out for text messages containing a Website link which, when visited, could download a Trojan horse. In a blog posting Friday, August 25, McAfee Inc. dubbed the new development "SMiShing," referring to a phishing attack sent via Short Message Service. Some cell phone users have started receiving an SMS that includes a URL which, if clicked on, downloads a Trojan horse. The Trojan horse turns the computer into a zombie, allowing it to be controlled by hackers. The computer then becomes part of a bot network, which can then be used to launch denial-of-service attacks, install keylogging software and steal personal account information and other malicious activities.

McAfee Blog: <http://www.avertlabs.com/research/blog/?p=74>

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/08/28/HNsmishing\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/08/28/HNsmishing_1.html)

11. *August 25, Websense Security Labs* — **Multiple phishing alert: Machias Savings Bank, United Heritage Credit Union, Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union, Texas DPS Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of several new phishing attacks. One attack targets customers of Machias Savings Bank. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that a new anti-fraud department has been created. In order to complete the enrollment procedure, users are requested to log on to their online bank accounts. Another attack targets United Heritage Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message which claims that their account could have been accessed by a third party without authorization. Users are asked to verify their information to avoid account suspension. Another attack targets Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union (CPFCU). Users receive a spoofed e-mail message with an invitation to update their account profile details in order to make use of the new CPFCU Universal Card. The e-mail claims that if their account balance is bigger than \$500 they will receive a \$100 bonus for applying. Another attack targets Texas DPS Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message urging them to renew the listed services pending deactivation of the account.

For more detailed information:

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=585>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=586>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=587>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=588>

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/>

12. *August 25, Department of Transportation* — **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration laptop stolen.** A laptop belonging to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor

Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) was stolen from a government owned vehicle on Tuesday, August 22, in Baltimore, MD. The incident was immediately reported to the local police and an investigation is ongoing. FMCSA has conducted an initial assessment and has determined the laptop may contain personally identifiable information pertaining to 193 individuals who hold a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) from 40 motor carrier companies. At this point, it does not appear that the laptop contained any financial or medical information; however it did contain individual names, dates of birth, and CDL numbers.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fmcsa0406.htm>

**13. *August 24, Haaretz (Israel)* — Fugitive top hi-tech executive tracked down in Sri Lanka.**

The founder of Israeli hi-tech giant Comverse, who fled the United States about two weeks ago, was tracked down in Sri Lanka by an Israeli private investigator. Kobi Alexander faces grave fraud charges in the stock options scandal that rocked the company. American authorities charge that Alexander personally profited, by tens of millions of dollars, from back-dating and spring-loading stock option grant dates, at the expense of Comverse stockholders.

Source: <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/754476.html>

**14. *August 22, Finextra (UK)* — Former JPMorgan worker admits check scam.** A former JPMorgan worker has pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$100 million in corporate checks from the bank's processing facility in New York. Gregory Halley, 37, stole the checks when he worked in the post room at JPMorgan's lockbox facility in Brooklyn, which processes checks from large corporate customers. Halley would credit the paper sums to the customers' accounts, but would hide as many as several dozen checks — generally worth at least \$50,000 each — in his clothing and take them home. He would then give the checks to co-conspirators in exchange for cash payments.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15745>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

**15. *August 28, USA TODAY* — Error in Comair crash fairly common.** The pilots of Comair Flight 5191, who tried to take off from the wrong runway in Lexington, KY, early Sunday, August 27, were repeating a common error, according to government databases and aviation experts. The CRJ-100 burst into flames and 49 of the 50 people died after the jet sped off a short runway reserved for small private planes. Jets are supposed to use a nearby 7,003-foot runway that is twice the length of the smaller one. Pilots report that in some cases it is easy to mistake one runway for another, especially at night or in poor weather. Aviation incident databases include hundreds of cases of pilots attempting to land or take off on the wrong runways. Most often such mistakes are caught well before an accident occurs. In rare instances they have caused accidents. The related risk of planes that stray into the paths of other planes on runways is considered one of the top aviation risks in the country. Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board say that preliminary data from the jet's two "black box" recorders indicated that the pilots had attempted to take off from runway 26. They had apparently been instructed by a controller to take off from runway 22, which is nearby.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-27-ky-crash-investigation\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-27-ky-crash-investigation_x.htm)



16. *August 28, USA TODAY* — **Small, regional aircraft have reputation for safety.** Small, fast regional jets such as the Comair craft that crashed in Kentucky are among the safest and most widely used planes in the sky. The deaths on Sunday, August 27, left Comair President Don Bornhorst shaken when he spoke publicly hours after the crash as the airline was still trying to contact relatives of the 47 passengers. Comair, a subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, was the first U.S. airline to buy regional jets, introducing them in 1993 to replace smaller turboprop planes on flights from midsize cities to Delta's hub airports. The jet that crashed is a 50-seat CRJ-100 made by Bombardier. It had flown 12,048 trips since Comair bought it in January 2001. The pilot, first officer and flight attendant had years of experience on the CRJ-100, Bornhorst said. "That's been a very, very safe airplane, and Comair is a sharp operator," Denver-based airline consultant Michael Boyd said Sunday. "There's nothing 'regional' about those jets. They fly everywhere." Regional jets that carry up to 70 passengers at speeds over 500 mph have become a staple. Roughly half of all domestic flights are on regional aircraft rather than full-size jets, according to the consulting company Back Aviation Solutions.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-27-small-aircraft-safety\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-27-small-aircraft-safety_x.htm)

17. *August 28, Chicago Tribune* — **One Chicago flight evacuated, another delayed.** A United Airlines flight from Boston to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport landed safely and was evacuated early Sunday, August 27, after the pilot reported fumes in the cockpit before landing. The 63 passengers and crew exited United Airlines Flight 525 via emergency chutes at about 7:30 a.m. CDT, said Wendy Abrams, a spokesperson for the Chicago Department of Aviation. A second United aircraft, Flight 1498 bound for Ft. Lauderdale from O'Hare, was delayed at about 8:15 a.m. Sunday because of the crew's concern about five passengers' behavior. Chicago police "did a sweep with the canine unit," Abrams said. "The results from that investigation were negative, and all passengers reboarded ... and continued on their flight."  
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-060827ohare.0.5113959.story?coll=chi-homepagepromo440-fea>

18. *August 28, Reuters* — **US Airways flight disrupted by threat.** A US Airways flight en route from Philadelphia to Houston was diverted to Bristol, TN, Monday, August 28, because of a bomb threat, an airport official said. A spokesperson for the Tri-Cities Airport, which serves eastern Tennessee, southwestern Virginia, and western North Carolina, said the FBI was at the airport investigating the threat.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/08/28/plane.note.reut/index.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

19. *August 28, DM News* — **USPS begins contract talks with NRLCA.** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) began contract negotiations with the National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA) on Thursday, August 24. NRLCA has more than 66,000 career employees who deliver mail to residences and business on rural delivery routes. There are also approximately 50,000 part time relief rural carriers. Contracts with four of the association's biggest unions began this month. All contracts expire at midnight November 20.  
Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/direct-mail/38045.html>

20. *August 27, Pacific Business News* — **FedEx settles with pilots.** FedEx Express and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) have reached a tentative agreement on a new contract. A unit of FedEx Corp., FedEx announced the agreement on Sunday, August 27, after reaching a four-year contract settlement the night before. Negotiations have been conducted under the guidance of the National Mediation Board since October 2005. Terms must be reviewed and approved by the FedEx ALPA Master Executive Council before going to a ratification vote by 4,700 FedEx pilots.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060827/1337403.html?.v=1>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

21. *August 28, Agence France-Presse* — **Mystery surrounds European outbreaks of sheep virus.** Health experts baffled by the appearance in Europe of a strain of virus that is deadly to sheep believe it could come from sub-Saharan Africa, a European Commission spokesperson has said. European scientists have identified the strain of bluetongue — a disease transmitted to sheep by insects — as "serotype eight", the commission's health spokesperson said Monday, August 28. "It's a strain which has never been identified before in Europe," said Philip Tod. "The laboratory experts tell us that is likely to be a strain which is sub-Saharan in origin. We don't know how this strain ended up in Europe." The outbreak was detected on August 17 in the southern Netherlands, but Belgium and Germany have since reported cases. Although bluetongue is frequently reported in southern Europe, the outbreak is the first in northern Europe.

Bluetongue virus information:

<http://www.fao.org/AG/AGINFO/subjects/en/health/diseases-cards/bluetongue.html>

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060828/hl\\_afp/eufarmhealthanimaldisease\\_060828135426;\\_ylt=AmX4OcJwVcO8SyMPqbwuB.SJOrgF:\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060828/hl_afp/eufarmhealthanimaldisease_060828135426;_ylt=AmX4OcJwVcO8SyMPqbwuB.SJOrgF:_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

22. *August 28, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found on soybeans in Texas.** Asian soybean rust is now infecting a field of commercial soybeans near where rust was found on kudzu a week ago in Liberty County, Texas. The national count of rust-infected counties remains at 36 in seven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=928>

23. *August 26, Vancouver Sun (Canada)* — **Scorch virus threatens British Columbia's blueberry industry.** Blueberry farmers are carefully combing their fields for withered berries and dried-up blossoms in an effort to contain a virus with the potential to destroy British Columbia's \$64-million blueberry harvest. Blueberry scorch virus is carried from plant to plant by aphids, tiny insects that feed on plants. If an aphid feeds on an infected plant and then flies to the next farm, it will infect neighboring plants. That means blueberry farmers must rely on their neighbors. Mark Sweeney, a berry specialist with the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, said scorch virus has been in B.C. since 2000, but this year some fields have become heavily infected. "In some fields 75 per cent of the plants have the virus," he said. Scorch virus information: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/blsv.htm>

Source: <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=c7495248-2cc5-4503-ba37-c33183ba4441>

**24. *August 25, Southeast Farm Press* — Researchers discover cause of watermelon disease.**

Your watermelon crop is a week or two from harvest when vines and leaves begin to yellow, crumple and die in a matter of days. Or you've shipped produce cross-country, where customers cut into fruit that looks fine on the outside, but brown and gummy inside. Both scenarios have been real for Florida watermelon farmers hit by a fast-moving disease called vine decline, which has ruined an estimated \$60 million worth of crops since it first appeared in southwest Florida in the spring of 2003. But University of Florida scientists who've been studying vine decline since then say they believe they've discovered what causes it -- and can now begin working on ways to control it. Pam Roberts, an Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences plant pathologist, says researchers now think the silverleaf whitefly spreads a virus to the watermelon by feeding on infected plants and moving on to new healthy ones. The whitefly is an old enemy in agriculture, but one that's traditionally plagued tomato farmers, she said.

Source: <http://southeastfarmpress.com/news/082506-watermelon-disease/>

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## **Food Sector**

**25. *August 23, Indianapolis Star* — Salmonella outbreak spurs state investigation.** Health officials are investigating a salmonella outbreak in Greenwood, IN, that has sickened at least two-dozen people in the past two months. The Indiana State Department of Health is checking several possible sources of the bacteria, which can give people diarrhea and other flu like symptoms. More than half the 56 salmonella cases reported in Central Indiana since May have come from northern Johnson and southern Marion counties, said Lynae Granzow, a state epidemiologist.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060823/NEWS01/608230471>

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## **Water Sector**

**26. *August 28, Associated Press* — North Carolina to order more than 200 water system to test for lead, copper.** More than 200 public water systems that ignored state requests for information about their safety will be ordered to test for lead and copper by the end of September, officials said. The short deadline was chosen because the systems failed to provide data about how they conducted previous lead tests, said Terry Pierce, director of the state Division of Environmental Health, which includes the Public Water Supply Section. The section is to send letters Monday, August 28, to 217 public water systems across the state, changing their test requirement from once every three years to once per year, beginning now.

Source: [http://www.fayettevillenc.com/article\\_ap?id=90352](http://www.fayettevillenc.com/article_ap?id=90352)

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## **Public Health Sector**

**27. *August 28, Bloomberg* — Scientists move closer to understanding flu virus evolution.**

Scientists tracking bird flu moved closer to understanding the evolution of the viruses and the genes that make them more infectious to people in a new study. About 52 key genetic changes distinguish avian influenza strains from those that spread easily among people, according to researchers in Taiwan, who analyzed the genes of more than 400 A– type flu viruses. The analysis will help scientists trace the mechanism for infection and how the viruses replicate in different species, according to a report appearing in the September edition of *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. The researchers analyzed the gene sequences of 306 human and 95 avian influenza viruses to molecularly identify the host species. The data was crosschecked with 15,785 more sequences from the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Genomic Signatures of Human versus Avian Influenza A Viruses:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no09/06-0276.htm>

Source: [http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a6S3ZQwqZkS4&refer=latin\\_america](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a6S3ZQwqZkS4&refer=latin_america)

**28. *August 28, Associated Press* — China says initial tests find bird flu vaccine safe. A**

Chinese–developed vaccine against the H5N1 strain of bird flu in humans has been found safe in the first round of tests, a government news agency reported Monday, August 28. Researchers began work on the vaccine last year, and the government said it was ready to start mass production. But any vaccine would face more tests before it could be approved for human use. Tests were conducted on six human volunteers at a Beijing hospital between November and June, the official news agency said. The tests were conducted by the China Center for Disease Control and Prevent and a Chinese drug company. Chinese authorities say the vaccine is meant for high–risk groups such as poultry workers.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/AvianFlu/wireStory?id=2364027>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**29. *August 28, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — Federal Emergency Management**

**Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: At 5:00 am EDT, a Hurricane Watch was issued for the Southern Peninsula of Florida from Deerfield Beach southward on the east coast and from south of Chokoloskee southward along the west coast. A Hurricane Watch remains in effect for all of the Florida Keys from Ocean Reef to the Dry Tortugas. A Hurricane Watch is also in effect for Andros Island in the northwestern Bahamas. A Hurricane Watch means that hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area generally within 36 hours. At 5:00 am EDT the center of Tropical Storm Ernesto was located near latitude 19.6 north longitude 75.4 west or about 45 miles south–southwest of

Guantanamo, Cuba. Ernesto is moving toward the northwest near 12 mph and this general motion is expected over the next 24 hours. Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph with higher gusts. Some slight strengthening is possible until Ernesto makes landfall later this morning with some weakening possible while over Cuba.

To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat082806.shtm>

**30. *August 27, Daily Yomiuri (Japan)* — U.S. troops to assist with Tokyo quake disaster drill.**

U.S. forces stationed in Japan will, for the first time, take part in an earthquake disaster drill to be held by the Tokyo metropolitan government on September 1. The drill will be based on a scenario that a large earthquake has occurred under a heavily populated area of Tokyo, leaving many people unable to return home. If a quake hits Tokyo, about five million people, including tourists, may find themselves stranded. The metropolitan government has prepared a plan to transfer the elderly and children to nearby prefectures by sea when other means of transportation are paralyzed and public transportation routes, such as trains and subways, have been made impassible. For the exercise, the U.S. Army will dispatch a vessel to Tokyo Port from the Yokosuka Naval Base in Kanagawa Prefecture. Thirty metropolitan government officials, posing as victims, will be taken on board and transported to Yokosuka.

Source: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20060827TDY02006.htm>

**31. *August 26, Tyler Morning Telegraph (TX)* — Civil Air Patrol members prepare for the worst.**

After Hurricane Katrina, with power out and communications down, members of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flew numerous missions over the Gulf Coast of Mississippi assessing damage to the area. They relayed the information over the radio to authorities on the ground. Members of the Civil Air Patrol's Texas Wing prepared in case another such disaster – or numerous other types of emergencies – hits the state, in a drill that ran from Friday, August 25 through Sunday, August 27. Tyler's branch of the Civil Air Patrol served as a command center for a weekend-long exercise around the state called Texas Sentry Cowboy. The Tyler CAP building served as the nerve center where 48 CAP and Air Force agents coordinated dozens of mock rescue missions involving more than 80 personnel at 23 locations across Texas. Crews in the air and on the ground practiced searching for electronic signals, stand-ins for downed aircraft or missing persons.

Source: [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17115628&BRD=1994&PAG=461&dept\\_id=227937&rft=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17115628&BRD=1994&PAG=461&dept_id=227937&rft=6)

**32. *August 26, News Channel 5 (OH)* — Terror attack drill in northeast Ohio.** A huge, full-scale, terrorism drill took place in five cities across Cuyahoga County in northeast Ohio on Saturday, August 26. The event helped emergency officials find out what would happen in the event of a real terrorist attack, and if they could handle it. Hundreds of local, state and federal emergency officials joined forces for the drill. From hazardous material leaks to suicide bombers, emergency teams saw it all. The emergency training drill was the largest ever done in the state of Ohio.

Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/station/9743386/detail.html>

**33. *August 26, New York Times* — California hosts large scale testing of technology during disaster drill.**

It began with a worldwide virus outbreak that had cities under quarantine, emergency workers overwhelmed and government agencies unable to cope. It was compounded

by a wave of cyberterror attacks that cut off power, phones and Internet access. Such was the crisis that teams from the Pentagon, nongovernmental agencies and several dozen technology companies set out to resolve in a five-day simulation meant to showcase and test a new set of digital tools in responding to disaster. The limitations of even the latest technology were in evidence when an effort to restore communications by setting up ad hoc wireless networks resulted in a three-day data traffic jam. Yet the problems encountered in the training effort, named Strong Angel III, did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the participants, a diverse group of more than 800 "first responders," military officers and software and wireless network experts — some from rivals like Microsoft and Google, working side by side. Technology roadblocks were balanced by notable successes, like the work of Google, Microsoft, ESRI, Intergraph and other companies to allow sharing a single set of digital satellite maps seamlessly and to overlay event data relayed from emergency workers throughout the San Diego area.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/28/technology/28disaster.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1156780018-icNDmq2+LDQCSgvIQrL7gA>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

34. *August 28, IDG News Service* — **Report: AOL 9.0 behaves like badware.** AOL's free Internet client software has earned the company a slap on the wrist from StopBadware.org, a consortium set up to combat malicious software. In a report released Monday, August 28, the group advises users to steer clear of the software because of its "badware behavior." The report blasts the free version of AOL 9.0 because it "interferes with computer use," and because of the way it meddles with components such as the Internet Explorer browser and the Windows taskbar. The suite is also criticized for engaging in "deceptive installation" and faulted because some components fail to uninstall. The main problem is that AOL simply doesn't properly inform users of what its software will do to their PCs, said John Palfrey, StopBadware.org's co-director.

StopBadware.org's report: [http://stopbadware.org/reports/reportdisplay?reportname=aol0\\_82706](http://stopbadware.org/reports/reportdisplay?reportname=aol0_82706)

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id.126928-c.aol/article.html#>

35. *August 28, Security Focus* — **Bot network attacker gets three years for breaches.** A federal court in Seattle sentenced Christopher Maxwell, a 21-year-old California man, to 37 months in prison and three years of supervised release on Friday, August 25, for compromising millions of computers in the process of creating a bot net. The automated attack that created the bot net infected systems at Seattle's Northwest Hospital, the Department of Defense, and the Colton Unified School District, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington said in a statement. Maxwell and two co-conspirators used the bot net to install adware on the computers and earn more than \$100,000 in affiliate advertising income. Among the effects of the computer infection at Northwest Hospital: Doors to the operating room failed to open, pagers did not work, and computers in the intensive care unit were disrupted.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/290>

36. *August 27, USA TODAY* — **Wireless carriers seek faster repairs during times of disaster.** A year after Hurricane Katrina, a squabble has broken out among the utilities on the front lines of disasters over whether cell phone service should get priority for repairs. Power and landline

phone companies are resisting wireless carriers' requests for preferred treatment. About 1,000 of the 7,000 cell sites along the Gulf Coast were knocked out by Katrina, and cell phones were virtually useless in New Orleans. Noting that wireless service has become a lifeline during disasters, CTIA — the Wireless Association — told the Federal Communications Commission this month that most outages stemmed from cell towers that lost power or landline phone service. Phone-company wires carry cell calls once they reach the local tower. Electric and phone companies worked to restore wireless service as quickly as possible after the storm, says CTIA's Christopher Guttman-McCabe. But, he says, cellular networks could be revived more quickly if placed on a priority list that includes hospitals, public safety agencies and water plants.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/telecom/2006-08-27-wireless-squabble\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/telecom/2006-08-27-wireless-squabble_x.htm)

**37. *August 25, Tech Web* — Security vendors mad about Consumer Reports' test methods.**

Consumer Reports, the independent product review and rating publication, was slammed Friday, August 25, for using what security experts called "mind-boggling" and "useless" tests of anti-spyware software in its current on-the-stand issue. "This is beyond anything I've ever seen," said Alex Eckelberry, chief executive of Sunbelt Software, a Clearwater, FL, security company. "They ran a test that is not a full test of anti-spyware software capability. Consumer Reports scanned for and removed functionality that isn't even real." For a story on consumer-grade anti-virus and anti-spyware software in the September issue of Consumer Reports, the publication's testers ran various products through the mill. To judge anti-spyware titles, the magazine used the public suite of Spycar scripts published by Intelguardians Network Intelligence. "It's not a serious testing tool," Eckelberry claimed. "The mantra of any type of security test is that you have to test against real-world scenario. Relevancy is critical." Spycar fails on those points, according to Eckelberry.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/192300440;jsessionid=YWQZR5CXN3Z24QSNLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN>

**38. *August 25, Associated Press* — Online retailer sentenced for arranging computer attacks on rivals.**

A 19-year-old Michigan man who ran an Internet business selling retro sports jerseys was sentenced Friday, August 25, to 30 months in federal prison for recruiting a New Jersey teen to carry out computer attacks against competitors. Jason Salah Arabo was also ordered to pay \$504,495 to his victims, which included operators of competing Websites, as well as an Internet hosting company. Arabo said he used online instant message conversations to recruit Jasmine Singh of Edison, NJ, who was 16 at the time, to electronically bombard other throwback jersey Websites.

Source: <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/news/editoria1/15363417.htm>

**39. *August 25, Security Focus* — The danger of using "free" in search queries.** Building on a Wall Street Journal analysis of the 20 million search queries leaked by America Online that found "free" to be the most popular search term, Web safety firm SiteAdvisor warned that the results produced by such searches frequently lead to malicious Websites. The top three search queries including the word "free" that led to malicious sites include "free screensavers," "free ringtones," and "free music," the company stated. More than half of all sites returned for a search of "free screensavers" were malicious, not legitimate, SiteAdvisor stated.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/289>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### Current Port Attacks

#### Top 10 Target Ports

1026 (win-rpc), 38640 (---), 4672 (eMule), 139 (netbios-ssn), 445 (microsoft-ds), 113 (auth), 80 (www), 25 (smtp), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 135 (epmap)

Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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## General Sector

40. *August 28, VOA News* — **Bomb blasts in Turkey wound 27 people, including British tourists.** A bomb hidden beneath a seat in a minibus carrying Britons exploded early Monday, August 28. The blast tore the vehicle apart and injured 11 Turks in addition to the tourists. British officials said three of the tourists were seriously wounded. At about the same time as the bus explosion, two smaller devices exploded harmlessly in garbage cans in an area popular with tourists that is lined with bars and restaurants. A fourth bomb went off several hours earlier outside a school in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city. The blast on the city's European side, wounded six people, one of whom is in serious condition. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombings, which appeared similar to attacks Kurdish militants have carried out in Turkey many times in the past.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-08-28-voa14.cfm>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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